

**REMARKS**

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested in view of the foregoing amendments and following remarks.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended to specify that the percents by weight of zinc chloride and stannous chloride are based upon the amount of lactic acid provided as a raw material. Such amendment is support in the specification at page 5, paragraph [0013].

Claims 1 and 2 have also been amended to recite a lower limit of stannous chloride of "0.4", as suggested by the Examiner.

Turning to the Official Action, claims 1, 2 and 5 were rejected on the basis of informalities in lacking an indication of the basis of the percent by weight of the various components.

This ground of objection is deemed to be overcome in view of the foregoing amendments.

Claims 1, 2 and 5 were rejected under 35 USC 103 as unpatentable over Ichikawa. This ground of rejection is deemed to be overcome in view of the foregoing amendments.

The claims have been amended to the ranges of zinc chloride and stannous chloride which the Examiner indicated are shown to possess unexpected results by the Declaration of record.

In view of the foregoing, it is believed that each ground of rejection set forth in the Official Action has been overcome, and that the application is now in condition for allowance.

Accordingly, such allowance is solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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